



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

## Army Strong – Engineer Ready

## The Environment

**The Corps manages one of the largest federal environmental missions in the United States:**

- Restoring environmentally damaged lands
- Constructing sustainable facilities
- Regulating waterways and managing natural resources
- Cleaning up contaminated sites from past military activities.

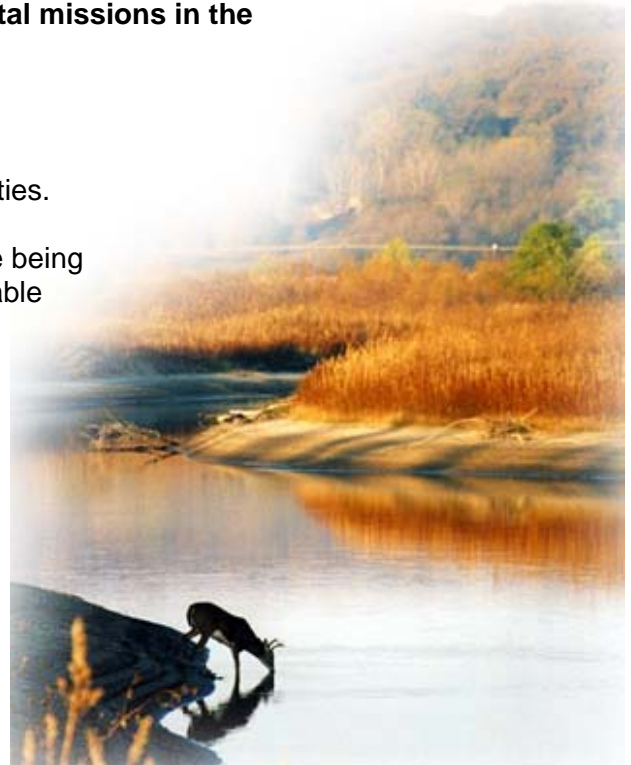
**Environmental Operating Principles**, or our green ethics, are being incorporated into all Corps business lines to achieve a sustainable environment.

### Restoring environmentally damaged lands

The Corps is bringing damaged environments back to life:

- Through large-scale ecosystem restoration projects, such as the Everglades, the Louisiana Coastal Area and the Missouri River
- By employing system-wide watershed approaches to problem solving and management for smaller ecosystem restoration projects

On the horizon is a new *National Center for Ecosystem Restoration*, which will ensure that all Corps ecosystem restoration projects are coordinated, synchronized and using a holistic life-cycle approach.



The Corps' Ponca Habitat Restoration Project restored natural habitats on the main stem Missouri River that were degraded by physical alterations to the system during the past several decades.

### Constructing sustainable facilities

The Corps is actively working to design and build sustainable communities and facilities for the Department of Defense by:

- Incorporating sustainable design criteria into military construction and training lands projects
- Developing programs and techniques to divert military construction waste from landfills by recycling and finding reuse opportunities
- Minimizing the use of hazardous materials
- Establishing the Center for the Advancement of Sustainability Innovations, a one-stop shop for sustainable planning and design expertise.

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For more information, visit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Homepage at [www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil).

## **Regulating waterways and managing natural resources**

The Corps regulates work in the nation's wetlands and waters, with a goal of protecting the aquatic environment while allowing responsible development. The regulatory program works to ensure no net loss of wetlands while issuing about 90,000 permits a year.

With nearly 12 million acres of land and water to manage, the Corps is:

- Responsible for the well-being of 66 endangered species
- Using Environmental Management Systems to integrate the Environmental Operating Principles into Corps operations to achieve waste reduction, recycling and energy efficiency goals
- Restoring environmental health to aquatic resources

## **Cleanup and protection activities**

The environmental program manages, designs and executes a full range of cleanup and protection activities, such as:

- Cleaning up sites contaminated with hazardous, toxic or radioactive waste or ordnance through the Formerly Used Defense Sites program
- Cleaning up low-level radioactive waste from the nation's early atomic weapons program through the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program
- Supporting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by cleaning up Superfund sites and working with its Brownfields and Portfields programs
- Supporting the Army with the Base Realignment and Closure program
- Ensuring that facilities comply with federal, state and local environmental laws
- Conserving cultural and natural resources

The Corps' new Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise is a one-stop shop that offers support on any environmental cleanup issue.

The Military Munitions Support Services strategy consolidates all the Corps' munitions support functions into one mission area with a continuing emphasis on explosive safety. It allows the Corps to provide the current force with coordinated, quality services.

## **Bottom line**

The Corps' goal for the environmental mission is to use as few resources as are needed to accomplish the mission, in a manner that leaves the smallest footprint behind.

For more information about the Corps environmental programs, visit the Corps Environmental Community of Practice Web site at: <https://ekopowered.usace.army.mil/ecop/>

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